

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221190

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WB

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF ARAB TERRORISTS

REF: (A) BERLIN 1918 (B) BONN 16086

1. WE REALIZE THAT SHORT-TERM CONSIDERATIONS MIGHT SUGGEST THAT SENAT AND ALLIES SIMPLY ALLOW ARRESTED ARABS RETURN TO MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT BEING PUNISHED. DEPARTMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, WOULD NOT FAVOR THIS COURSE. WE BELIEVE

TERRORISTS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED GO FREE WITHOUT BEING PUNISHED. SUCH TREATMENT IN PAST, MOST NOTABLY IN AUSTRIA AND ITALY, HAS HAD EFFECT OF INSTILLING IN ARAB TERRORISTS A SENSE OF IMPUNITY THAT EMBOLDENED THEM TO TRY AGAIN. LAST SPRING AUSTRIANS SEIZE THREE ARABS WHOSE MISSION WAS TO MOUNT OPERATION AGAINST SCHONAU CASTLE. THEY WERE TRIED ONLY FOR ENTERING AUSTRIA ON FALSE DOCUMENTATION, CONVICTED AND DEPORTED IN LIEU OF SENTENCE. THIS ACTION SIMPLY CLEARLY SIGNALLED TO TERRORISTS THAT THEY COULD TRY AGAIN, WHICH THEY DID SUCCESSFULLY LAST SEPTEMBER AT MARCHEGG.

2. SIMILARLY IN ITALY LAST SPRING ARAB TERRORISTS APPREHENDED IN ROME WITH EXPLOSIVES WERE TRIED BUT FREED ON "PROVISIONAL LIBERTY" AND DISAPPEARED. THIS ACTION AGAIN ONLY HAD EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING TERRORISTS TO TRY

ONCE MORE AS THEY DID AT ROME AIRPORT WITH SOVIET SA-7 MISSILES.

3. TO US, LESSON SEEMS CLEAR. WHERE TERRORISTS ARE CAUGHT AND WHERE THEIR INTENTIONS ARE SERIOUS AND HOSTILE, AS SEEMS TO BE THE CASE IN BERLIN, THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED TO FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW. US MISSION MAY BE IN BETTER POSITION JUDGE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON ARAB COMMUNITY IN BERLIN, BUT FROM HERE IT WOULD SEEM THAT STRICT PUNISHMENT WOULD ACT AS DETERRENT. IF ONLY THING TERRORISTS HAVE TO FEAR IS DEPORTATION, IT SEEMS TO US THAT SENAT WOULD BE COMPOUNDING ITS DIFFICULTIES VIS-A-VIS ARABS RATHER THAN IMPROVING SITUATION.

4. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOREGOING IN TALKS WITH SENAT AND WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH IN EFFORT CONVINCE THEM THAT ARABS NOW IN CUSTODY SHOULD BE TRIED FOR VIOLATION OF BERLIN DEMILITARIZATION AND WEAPONS LEGISLATION AND, IF FOUND GUILTY, GIVEN MAXIMUM SENTENCE.

5. IN YOUR APPROACH YOU MAY WISH POINT OUT THAT OUR PREFERRED COURSE OF ACTION REFLECTS CONSISTENT US POLICY THAT FIRMNESS IS ONLY REALLY SATISFACTORY WAY IN LONG

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RUN TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM. RUSH

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